

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
14 October 2004 (14.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/088006 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **D01B 1/16, 1/28**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/AU2004/000402

(22) International Filing Date: 30 March 2004 (30.03.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2003901752 30 March 2003 (30.03.2003) AU

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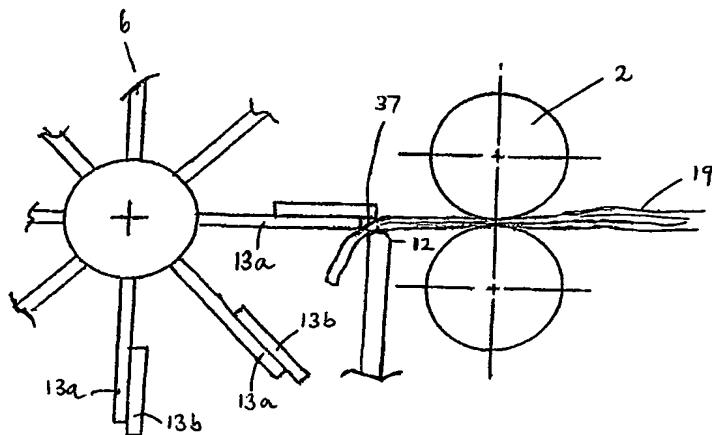
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,

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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING OF PLANT MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method for processing plant stalk having a fibrous outer part (skin) and an inner hurd, the method including the steps of: striking the stalk at at least one location along the stalk length so as to cause the stalk to bend at the at least one location thereby causing fracture of the hurd across the stalk at each striking location so as to expose at least part of the inner hurd; and separating at least part of the hurd from the skin. The present invention also provides an apparatus for processing decorticating the fed stalks comprising: a feeder (2) for feeding the stalks for processing; a decorticator for (13) that cause each stalk to bend over the bending element (12) and to thereby fracture the hurd across the stalk and/or longitudinally split the skin at various locations along the stalk length, wherein the striking means (13) further serves to separate the hurd from the fibrous outer part of the stalk. The present invention also provides fibres and hurd produced by the methods and apparatus of the present invention.



TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

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